

THE
CORNERSTONE
CEREMONY

November 3, 1959

THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

America's fundamental aspiration is the preservation of peace. To this end we seek to develop policies and arrangements to make the peace both permanent and just. This can be done only on the basis of required information.

In war nothing is more important to a commander than the facts concerning the strength, dispositions and intention of his opponent, and the proper interpretation of those facts. In peacetime the necessary facts are of a different nature. They deal with conditions, resources, requirements and attitudes prevailing in the world. They are essential to the development of policy to further our long term national security and best interests. To provide information of this kind is the task of the organization of which you are a part.

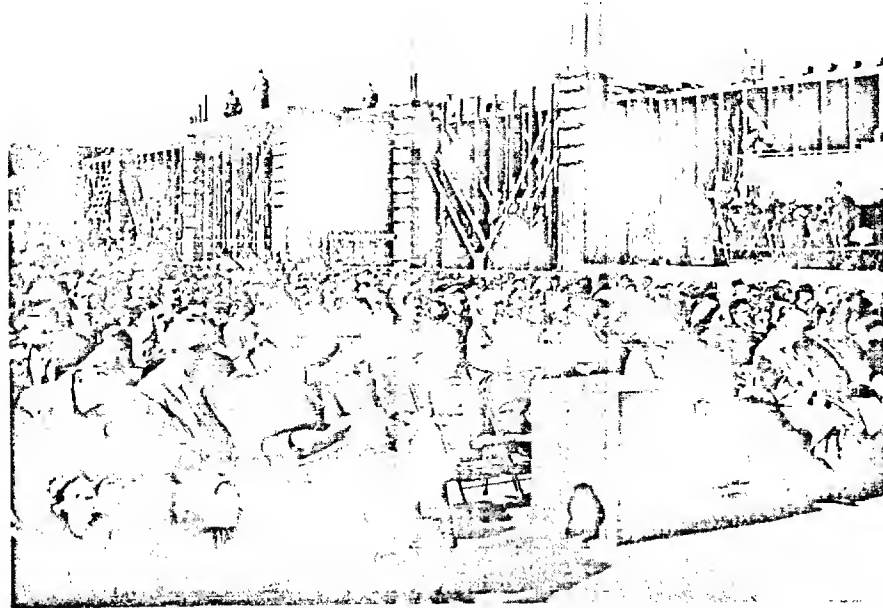
No task could be more important.

Upon the quality of your work depends in large measure the success of our effort to further the nation's position in the international scene.

By its very nature the work of this agency demands of its members the highest order of dedication, ability, trustworthiness and selflessness—to say nothing of the finest type of courage, whenever needed. Success cannot be advertised: failure cannot be explained. In the work of Intelligence, heroes are undecorated and unsung, often even among their own fraternity. Their inspiration is rooted in patriotism—their reward can be little except the conviction that they are performing a unique and indispensable service for their country, and the knowledge that America needs and appreciates their efforts. I assure you this is indeed true.

The reputation of your organization for quality and excellence, under the leadership of your Director, Mr. Allen Dulles, is a proud one.

Because I deeply believe these things, I deem it a great privilege to participate in this ceremony of cornerstone laying for the national headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency. On this spot will rise a beautiful and useful structure. May it long endure, to serve the cause of peace.



The audience, seated in what will be the main entrance hall of the new building.



The President starts to lay the Cornerstone.



The Director assists in the laying of the Cornerstone.



The Cornerstone is lowered into place.

Washington Post and Times Herald
November 4, 1959

Ike Lays Cornerstone For New CIA Building

By Edward T. Folliard
Staff Reporter

President Eisenhower yesterday laid the cornerstone of an 8-story building for the Central Intelligence Agency on the Virginia bank of the Potomac near Langley. He extolled those who gather information for the Agency.

"No task could be more important" he told Director Allen Dulles and others of the CIA.

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The Central Intelligence Agency, the need for which was made apparent by World War II and the threat of international communism afterward, was sponsored 12 years ago by President Harry S. Truman and established by the Republican-controlled 80th Congress.

Its offices and employees have been scattered in various buildings here, some of them "tempo" that will come down when the new \$46 million structure at Langley is completed in 1961.

Flies to Gettysburg

President Eisenhower, on his way from the White House to Langley, stopped off to snip a red, white and blue ribbon and open a new stretch of the George Washington Memorial

Highway that leads to the new CIA Building.

After the cornerstone-laying ceremony, he boarded a Marine Corps helicopter and flew to Gettysburg, Pa., to cast his vote in a state election.

CIA Director Dulles, in a speech that followed that of the President, said that those who gather intelligence for this country have to beware that prejudices or predilections do not slant their reports.

He said the motto on the face of the new building would be a passage from St. John: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The CIA Building, which is being constructed on a Government-owned tract of 140 acres, will have central air-conditioning, self-operated automatic elevators and a cafeteria and smaller dining room to seat 1400 at one time. There will be parking space for 3000 cars.

Architects for the building are Harrison & Abramovitz, with Frederic R. King as associate architect. The building is being erected by Charles H. Tompkins Co. and J. A. Jones Co. The Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration is contract agent for the building and is supervising the work.

New York Times
November 4, 1959

PRESIDENT HAILS C. I. A. OPERATIVES

**Calls Them 'Unsung Heroes'
in Dedicating New 'Cloak
and Dagger' Building**

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — President Eisenhower laid the cornerstone of the new Central Intelligence Agency building today, dedicating it to the "undecorated and unsung heroes" of the intelligence forces at home and abroad.

His participation in the ceremonies at near-by Langley, Va., brought out of official hiding an important Federal agency, whose expenditures are not subject to Congressional review and whose employees have been forbidden to say where they work.

The official program, however, included everything but a road map to the \$46,000,000 building, situated on a bluff ten miles west of Washington on the south side of the Potomac River.

In the agency's headquarters in downtown Washington, meanwhile, operations continued in the cloak-and-dagger tradition. The switchboard was still answering calls by repeating the telephone number rather than identifying the agency by name. The same technique was used when an official was requested by name.

Driving to the dedication site, the President stopped to cut a ribbon opening a section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. It was built at a cost of \$9,400,000 to provide quick access to the new building from Washington.

In his brief, prepared remarks the President said that only on the basis of comprehensive and appropriate information could the country develop policies to make peace permanent and just.

The President was introduced by Allen W. Dulles, C. I. A. director, to an audience made up largely of Government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

Mr. Dulles recalled that World War II had brought home to the United States its vital interests in such distant places as Korea, Laos and Africa.

He sought to make two main points—that "facts have no politics" and that the C. I. A. was not involved in policy-making.

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Road signs marked the distance and way to the new building. However, neither Virginia State Troopers on the scene nor District of Columbia motorcycle policemen could say for certain whether the markers would be there tomorrow.

As a box was about to be sealed in the cornerstone, the President asked Mr. Dulles, in an aside, what was in it.

Mr. Dulles replied, "It's a secret," although the contents had been listed in the official program.

New York Herald Tribune
November 4, 1959

Eisenhower Lauds C. I. A. Peace Role

**Helps Lay Stone For
Huge New Building**

By James E. Warner

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Intelligence, vital in war time, is equally important during peace to serve not only the security of the nation but the cause of world peace, President Eisenhower declared today.

He spoke at cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the giant new Central Intelligence Agency building at Langley, Va., a dozen miles outside of the capital. Mr. Eisenhower said:

"By its very nature the work of this agency demands of its members the highest order of dedication, ability, trustworthiness and selflessness—to say nothing of the finest type of courage whenever needed."

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After this ceremony, the President, who had motored to the C. I. A. building site, stopping briefly en route to cut a ribbon opening a new link in the George Washington Memorial Highway along the Potomac River, then boarded a helicopter, flew to Gettysburg, Pa., to vote at his legal residence, and was back in the White House by early afternoon, landing on the south lawn of the mansion's grounds.

Dulles Speaks

Allen W. Dulles, C. I. A. director, whose work in heading the super-secret world-covering agency was praised by Mr. Eisenhower, remarked in a brief speech "facts have no politics," recalling that the twelve-year-old agency had been sponsored by a Democratic President, approved by a Republican Congress and during the "past crucial years it has had the unfailing support of a Republican President and a Democratic Congress."

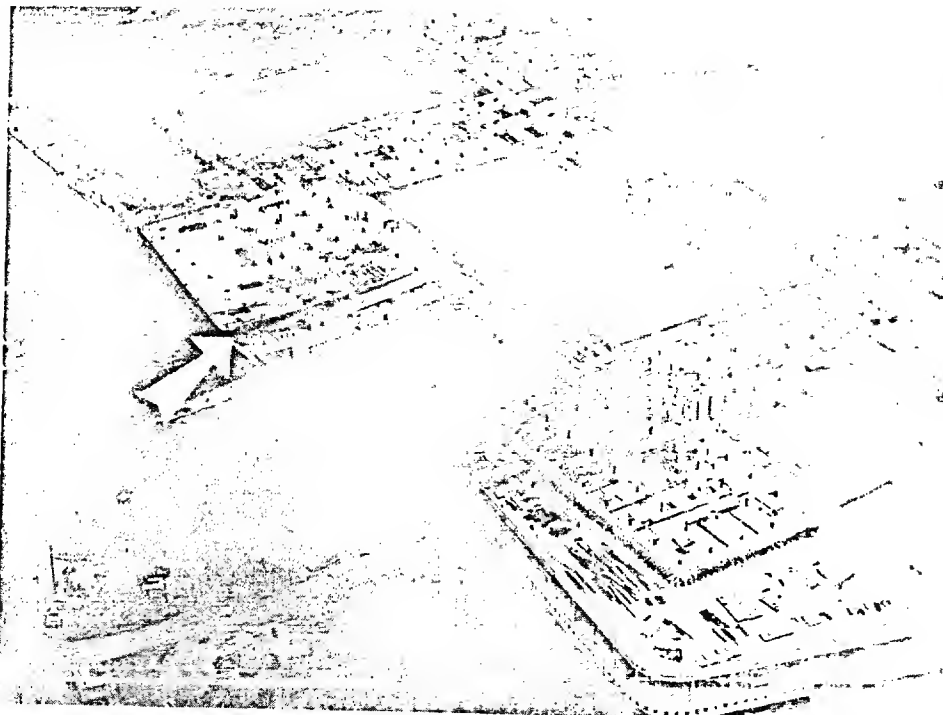
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Mr. Dulles, a brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, called on Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy and Under-Secretary of State Robert Murphy to assist the President and himself in wielding trowels on the cornerstone mortar. With the President, he had them lay their hands on the white marble cornerstone, as it was slowly lowered into place.

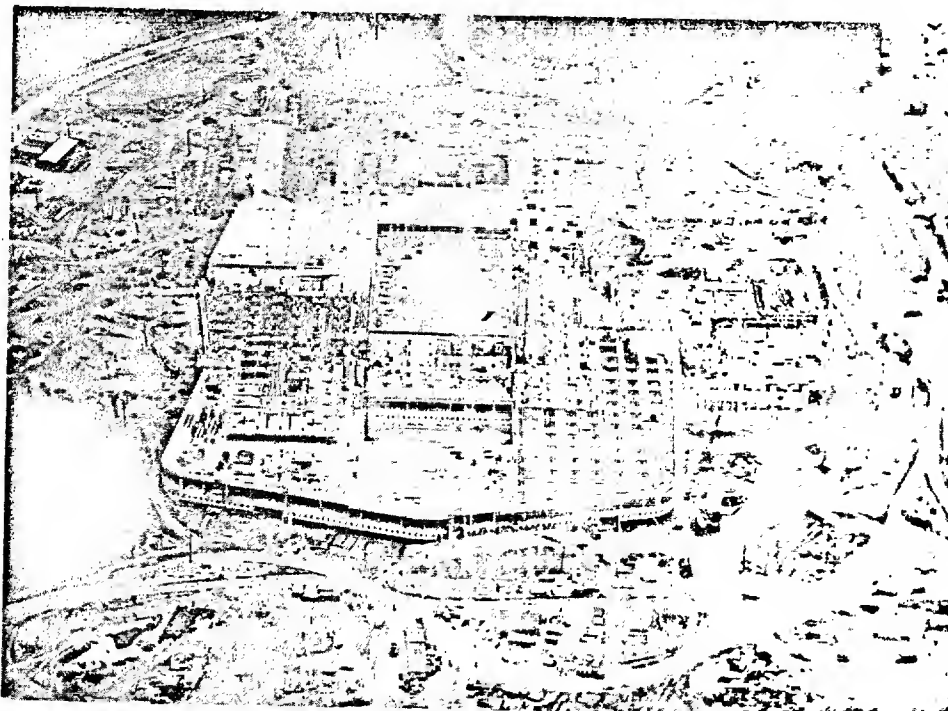
Contents of Box

"No, it's a secret," he jokingly replied to a demand he tell the contents of the cornerstone box. Actually, its contents are not a secret. They include a 1944 memorandum from the late Gen. William J. Donovan, head of the World War II Office of Strategic Services, whose widow was present, to President Roosevelt urging establishment of a permanent centralized intelligence service, related documents, a recording of today's ceremonies, and microfilm copies of daily and weekly newspapers of this date.

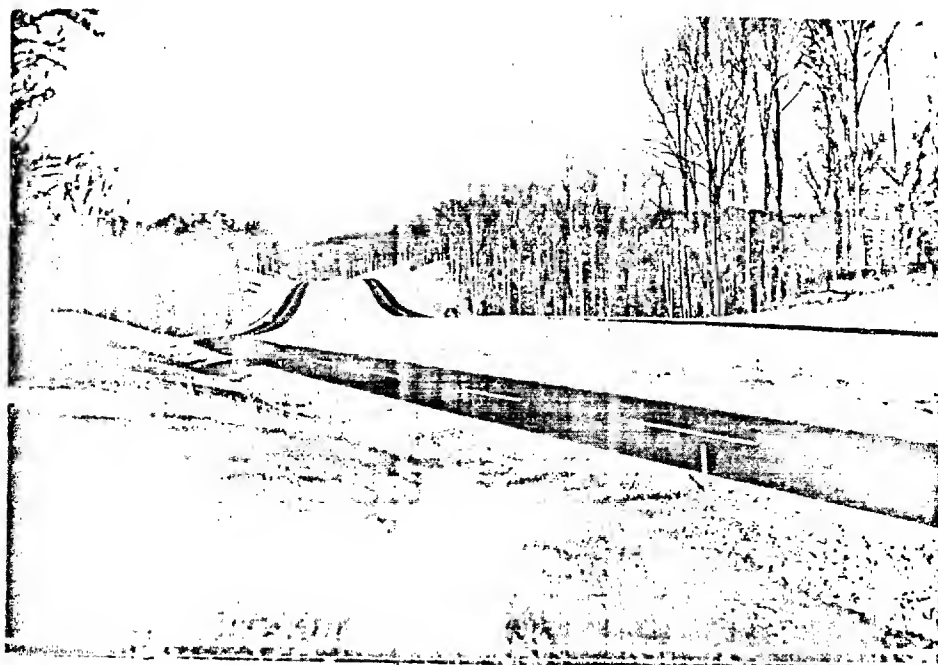
Top officials of the government, with their wives, attended the ceremony in bright, chilly sunshine. The invocation and benediction were pronounced by Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, chaplain of the Senate, and the U. S. Air Force band provided music, including honors to the President and the national anthem.



View from Northeast—arrow indicates location of Cornerstone in main entrance.



View from North—main entrance at center left. Cafeteria foundations at right.



The extension of the George Washington Memorial Parkway along the Virginia side of the Potomac from Spout Run (Lorcom Lane) to the building site, a distance of approximately five miles, has been completed and was officially opened by the President on his way to the Cornerstone Ceremony. Above is a view of the Parkway between the site and the interchange with Route 123.